

THE 5Vs

Some of you may have never thought of the idea of writing a family vision statement. Up until a few years ago, I was in that same camp even though I spent time thinking about the company vision statement for the companies I worked for or the team I led at the time. In business, we all understand and expect to have a vision statement. Yet for the most important business that we lead, our family, we often neglect a vision statement. For some of us it is out of ignorance that we didn't know we should have one, while the rest of us thought about it but were intimidated to get started. Maybe even a few of us wondered if it would even matter. As in business, teams that have a vision and remind each other of it are unified and going in the same direction.

Knowing that our families need a vision statement is the first step. Next, we need to create one. Drafting a family vision statement is hard because we want to make it perfect. My encouragement is, don't worry about it being perfect, just get it done. A perfect quote for this is: "Anything worth doing, is worthy doing messy." Once you get it done, you can start to modify it as you and your family grow into it.

When I work with clients, a verse on vision I like to reference is from the book of Habakkuk in the Bible. The prophet Habakkuk was complaining to God about God's silence and what Habakkuk believes to be inaction in regard to evil. In Habakkuk 2:2 God begins His response with, "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it." A vision short enough that a runner can carry the correct message to others.

Similarly, our vision needs to be simple so that our family can understand it and explain it to others. And even if they don't tell others about it, it needs to be simple enough for them to remember it so they are more likely to live it out. When our children are in a difficult situation, they need to be able to remember the family vision so they can realign their hearts and make the right choice.

At Five Capitals we use a simple framework with clients to create their company and family vision and values. We call it the 5Vs: Vision, Values, Vehicles, Valuation, and Vocabulary. The last page of this workbook will help you develop your 5Vs.

VISION is what we feel we are called to do as a family. What is the good news that we are to share with others? Based on your family's experiences, giftings, and personalities, there is a unique way you can give to others.

VALUES has to do with who we are and how we act. We all have values as a family whether we call them out or not. Do you speak to your kids or yell at them? Do you spend time together and talk? Do you say one thing and do the other? Do you value work or sports over family? Is there a spiritual component to your family?



VEHICLES are the ways we live out our vision and values as a family. These are activities you do frequently, on a predictable pattern, to help build your family and impact others.

VALUATION relates to the ways we know we are winning in the world. Are we actually seeing movement with our family? Are we actually doing what we say our vision is?

VOCABULARY are the words we do and don't say in our house. Words are powerful and create culture. We want to make sure we use positive instead of negative words. Encouraging and inspiring, instead of degrading or self-deprecating.

CARLSON 5VS

The following is my family's 5Vs. They are not perfect, nor do all of us have everything memorized, yet our family knows we have them.

Vision: Rooted in God, we create a strong family unit to branch out to others to give love, hope, and laughter.

Values: Who we are/how we act.

Jesus—We love Jesus.

Love—We love each other and others.

Give—We give more than we receive.

Together—We spend time together.

Laugh—We have fun together.

Vehicles: The ways we deliver our vision and values to the world.

Spiritually—God at the center; attend church together and have family devotions/talks

Relationally—family dinners; family adventures; date nights for Cory and Holly; dates with each kid; time with friends as family and individually

Physically—vacations; sports/activities; family nights; attend kids' events together

Intellectually—always learning

Financially—generous with our time, talent, and treasures through Crossroads Church, Five Capitals, Aruna, Changing Gears, The New Frontier, Kilgour School

Vocabulary: The language we do and don't use.

Do say:

Please

Thank you

I love you

You are forgiven

I am sorry



Great job
Be bold
Our yes means yes, our no means no
Respect and protect
Don't give others the best, and we get the rest

Don't say:

Sucks
Hate
I'm bored
Cuss words
Mean words to each other

Valuation: How do we know we are winning?

Couple—When we are truly connected and not just roommates.

How many dates per month for Holly and Cory?

Family—Happy, healthy kids who are showing love to each other and others.

How many dates per month for each parent and kid?

Community—When friends and neighbors see us as a family working for the Kingdom in a loving, caring, genuine, nonjudgmental way.

How many guests over at our house per month?



YOUR FAMILY: 5Vs

VISION: What are we called to do as a family? Based on your family's experiences, giftings, and personalities, there is a unique way you can give to others.

VALUES: Who are we and how do we act? We all have values as a family whether we call them out or not.

VEHICLES: How are we going to live out our vision and values as a family? These are activities you do frequently, on a predictable pattern, to help build your family and impact others.

VALUATION: How are we doing? Are we actually seeing movement with our family? Are we actually doing what we say our vision is?

VOCABULARY: What are the words we do and don't say in our house. Words are powerful and create culture. Encouraging and inspiring, instead of degrading or self-deprecating.
